

that these propositions should not be accepted. The great advantage to the states, which were contemplated by the passage of the deposite act, consisted not in the receipts of interest on the sums entrusted to them; but in the renewed life and vigor which would be imparted to their industry and enterprize—their physical and mental improvement, by adding so much to the active capital within their limits. Every thousand dollars of such deposites, if used as active capital, will furnish employment to one thousand dollars worth of industry in the country where it is used. The encouragement should be given to the industry of the citizens of our own state, in preference to those of other states, so far as it can be done with the public funds, under the control of the Legislature; and that this may be done, even without the diminution of the annual profits on such funds, if invested abroad, your committee suppose, can hardly admit of question. They take this occasion to remark, that in their opinion, no one cause has militated so much against the prosperity of North Carolina, as the drain upon her capital and productive labor, which has been in progress for a series of years, and which has been accelerated within a short time. To say nothing of our contributions to the federal government; but a pittance of which has ever been expended within our limits; the large sums of money which are prodigally sent to the North to seek permanent employment in stocks, merchandize, city property, and otherwise; and to the south and south west, to be laid out in lands and slaves, have had a like disastrous effect upon her condition, though not to the same ruinous extent with the *absenteeism* of the landed proprietors of Ireland, so much complained of in that country. By a judicious use of the means now in our hands, this course of impoverishment may, in some degree, be arrested; and the ardent and enterprizing of our own people may find at home a field for their zeal and energy.

Another objection to such loans is, that the proposed borrowers are not under the control of our Legislature, nor amenable to the jurisdiction of our Courts. Your committee believe that the boon conferred by the act of Congress, was poorly worthy of our acceptance, if its only effect shall be to make North Carolina a surety to the federal treasury for the banks of other states, she receiving for such insurance only the interest on the sum thus secured, while all the advantages of the use of this vast treasure are to be enjoyed by the citizens of other states.